

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

2 INTRODUCED BY GALLUS, R. BROWN, BUZZAS, COHENOUR, COONEY, DOWELL, FRANKLIN,
3 GUTSCHE, HANSEN, HARRIS, LAWSON, LINDEEN, NEWMAN, PARKER, SCHMIDT, WANZENRIED,
4 WILSON

5
6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
7 MONTANA REAFFIRMING THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITMENT TO ENHANCING THE STATE'S CAPACITY
8 TO IMPROVE CARE FOR MONTANA'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH STRENGTHENING
9 COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH SERVICES, HUMAN SERVICES, AND WORK-RELATED, SOCIAL, AND
10 RECREATIONAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS AND THROUGH IMPROVING THE VIABILITY OF THE
11 PRIVATE-NONPROFIT CAREGIVER AND VENDOR NETWORK NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THOSE
12 SERVICES AND ENDORSING THE PRINCIPLE THAT COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR CITIZENS SHOULD BE
13 PROVIDED TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST DEGREE OF QUALITY RESULTS, NORMALIZATION, AND
14 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITIES AS POSSIBLE.

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16 WHEREAS, federal courts, personal conscience, and Montana custom have determined that it is a basic
17 human right of individuals, children, and families with special needs to live in the least restrictive, most dignified,
18 and most nurturing way possible; and

19 WHEREAS, when appropriate and safe, community-based social, recreational, health, and human
20 services are provided to all individuals, including those with special needs; and

21 WHEREAS, consumer and family choice of services promotes cost-effective and flexible solutions for
22 care while meeting the unique needs of individuals, children, and families with special needs; and

23 WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that strong not-for-profit, ALONG WITH FOR-PROFIT, business
24 sectors are vital sources of local economic development; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1998, the not-for-profit sector was the fifth largest source of wages in Montana and 75%
26 of not-for-profit corporation revenue came from health care, mental health care, and multipurpose human
27 services corporations; and

28 WHEREAS, economic development in all business sectors is attracted to communities that have strong
29 health networks and social, recreational, and human services; and

30 WHEREAS, the priorities of the Governor's Office of Economic Development include promoting Montana

1 businesses, enabling economic development by increasing government responsiveness and efficiency, and
 2 providing an opportunity for all Montana citizens to share economic prosperity and a high quality of life in all
 3 regions of the state; and

4 WHEREAS, the Bush Administration's New Freedom Initiative promotes consumer and family choice
 5 in disability-related treatment, health care, and other basic community living decisions, allowing people with
 6 disabilities and their families to decide how best to plan, obtain, and sustain community-based services; and

7 WHEREAS, the Montana Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council has established guiding principles
 8 for creating a system of community-based care in Montana that rests on principles of recovery and resiliency,
 9 equity, access and satisfaction, cultural competency, community education and awareness, flexibility, and
 10 diversion; and

11 WHEREAS, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Health Care Workforce Shortage's
 12 recommendations include those human services professions that are essential to the health care system by
 13 providing care, treatment, and support to children, families, and individuals with disabilities and special needs,
 14 including services to those with developmental disabilities, emotional disturbances, mental illness, and chemical
 15 dependency who may be served in community-based programs or in residential programs; and

16 WHEREAS, increasing the availability of innovative community-based social, recreational, health, and
 17 human services will improve all individuals' ability to use their strengths and resources to enhance their quality
 18 of life and their ability to manage their own lives and will be an important key to maximizing consumer health,
 19 successful functioning and normalization, and maximizing systemic fiscal efficiency and accountability; and

20 WHEREAS, a strong, healthy, private not-for-profit ~~AND FOR-PROFIT~~ network and open market competition
 21 is necessary to achieve both consumer choice, fiscal efficiency, and accountability; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature directly affects the availability, direction, and success of these important
 23 services and programs through the appropriation of critical funds to state agencies.

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 25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
 26 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

27 That THE 58TH LEGISLATURE ENCOURAGES all branches of state government ~~shall~~, through the Department
 28 of Public Health and Human Services AND WHEN PRACTICAL, APPROPRIATE, AND SAFE, TO work towards the
 29 development and maintenance of a consistent and complete compendium of community-based services for all
 30 citizens, including individuals, children, and families with special needs, while recognizing the essential role of

1 the individual, family, and community in planning for, providing, and purchasing the rich array of social,
2 recreational, health care, and human services and other programs available.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to the Governor, THE CHIEF
4 JUSTICE OF THE MONTANA SUPREME COURT, and the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human
5 Services.

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